AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims: Please cancel claims 1-12 and add new claims 13-29.

13. (new) A process for analyzing gene function comprising: a) injecting a naked polynucleotide encoding the gene into a blood vessel lumen, *in vivo* ; b) increasing the propensity for macromolecules to move through vessel walls and enter the extravascular space; and, c) delivering the naked polynucleotide to an extravascular cell outside of the blood vessel.
14. (new) The process of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide consists of a gene.
15. (new) The process of claim 1 wherein the gene encodes a protein.
16. (new) A process for analyzing gene function comprising: a) injecting a naked oligonucleotide into a blood vessel lumen, *in vivo* ; b) increasing the propensity for macromolecules to move through vessel walls and enter the extravascular space; and, c) delivering the naked oligonucleotide to an extravascular cell outside of the blood vessel via the increased permeability.
17. (new) The process of claim 4 wherein the oligonucleotide consists of a single strand oligonucleotide.
18. (new) The process of claim 5 wherein the single strand oligonucleotide consists of anti-sense oligonucleotide.
19. (new) The process of claim 6 wherein the single strand oligonucleotide consists of an artificial oligonucleotide.
20. (new) The process of claim 4 wherein the oligonucleotide consists of double strand nucleic acid.
21. (new) The process of claim 8 wherein the double strand oligonucleotide comprises RNA.
22. (new) The process of claim 4 wherein delivery of the oligonucleotide to the cell results in decreased expression of the gene.
23. (new) The process of claim 9 wherein the double strand oligonucleotide consists of a nucleic acid sequence comprising 10 to 50 bases.
24. (new) The process of claim 11 wherein the double strand oligonucleotide consists of a nucleic acid sequence comprising 18 to 25 bases.
25. (new) The process of claim 4 wherein the oligonucleotide comprises sequence that is similar to a portion of the gene sequence.
26. (new) The process of claim 10 wherein the gene is an endogenous gene.

27. (new) The process of claim 15 wherein the gene is a viral gene.

28. (new) The process of claim 1 wherein analyzing gene function comprises drug design.

29. (new) The process of claim 4 wherein analyzing gene function comprises drug design.

In there are any questions or problems, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark K. Johnson Reg. No. 35,909
Mirus
505 South Rosa Road
Madison, WI 53719
608-238-4400

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via Unites States Postal Service express mail to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date: July 19, 2004.

Kirk Ekena